

## **Kajla Didi by Jatindra Mohon Bagchi**

The moon has appeared on the top of the bamboo garden  
Mother, where is my quiz teller sister 'Kajla'?

Near the pond and underneath the lemon plant  
Where lots of fireflies are flying

The flowers' smell kept me awake and it's only me who is awake  
Mother, where is my very dear sister 'Kajla'?

From that day why don't you call her  
Whenever I ask you about her, you cover your face

When I come for dinner, I always call her  
But she never comes out from the other room

I call her and you always remain silent

Mother, please tell me where my sister has gone  
Tomorrow I am organising a doll's wedding in my new room.

If I hide like sister  
How are you going to stay alone without us in this house?

No sister no me, how much fun would that be?

Lots of flowers have fallen underneath the flower tree  
When you go to fetch water please don't squash them

The bird is hiding in the branch of the pomegranate tree  
Don't make the bird fly away when you go to pick the fruits  
If sister heard that what would she think?

The moon has appeared on the top of the bamboo garden  
At this time where is my sister Kajla?  
Near the fence, near the pond fireflies are flying/sparkling/calling from the bushes  
The smell of lemon flower kept me awake  
It is night and mother where is my sister Kajla?

**Translation by Shabita Shamsad**